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✓ Latest release

Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees, casual workers, independent contractors, trade union membership, labour hire, job flexibility, job security

Reference period August 2023

Released 13/12/2023

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Key statistics

In August 2023:

- Median employee earnings was \$1,300 per week, up \$52 (4.2%) since August 2022.
- 2.7 million casual employees (22% of employees, 19% of all employed).
- 37% of employed people regularly worked from home, down from 40% in Aug 2021.
- 1.0 million independent contractors (7.5% of employed).

Topics

Statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are published in four topic-based releases.

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)
- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release)
- [Labour hire workers \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release)

Data downloads

Employee earnings

[!\[\]\(99f58673407353e96a019fbca558fd72_img.jpg\) Download all \(116.32 MB\)](#)

Table 1 - Employee earnings, 1975-2023

[!\[\]\(339a16584d5da0f0a3ca4e9ec17bf6a1_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[909.28 KB]

Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[6.24 MB]

Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

[!\[\]\(6a9b39b98eb945faa14c645ec99e4eaa_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[35.29 MB]

Table 4a - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

[!\[\]\(f60b7a900783ac3fd531bfd9c111be6d_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[25.67 MB]

Table 4b - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation (detailed)

[!\[\]\(eabd9f9ababee93effadc3b380fe65fd_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[10.44 MB]

Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

[!\[\]\(291e070cef6c4d5e78fefe4696ef53be_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[19.06 MB]

Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

[!\[\]\(a8ff699ced33317c53c86f9bf3171905_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[13.8 MB]

Table 7 - Median earnings for multiple job holders

[!\[\]\(cead67df4d82d6c83effe4f8699a7d8f_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[6.59 MB]

Table 8 - Distribution of earnings, 1989-2023

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[6.54 MB]

Earnings guide

To learn more about the earnings data collected by the ABS, refer to our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics\)](#). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide\)](#) data.

Working arrangements

[!\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296_img.jpg\) Download all \(30.21 MB\)](#)

Table 1a. Working arrangements and Job flexibility

[!\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[4.1 MB]

Table 1b. Casual work and Job security

[!\[\]\(870f5d5e9c0d57485634be3ecf52f3ca_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[1.8 MB]

Table 2. Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[9.87 MB]

Table 3. Form of employment by demographic characteristics

[!\[\]\(7d1d6890825e83a6a4a51febe2dcc7f3_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[3.52 MB]

Table 4. Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

[!\[\]\(b64b40baaee5acddc1eab8538ba84754_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[4.19 MB]

Table 5. Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work

[!\[\]\(28f72b996fc97883dfd9d4e8b1b16b4e_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)
[1.35 MB]

Table 6 - Employees on a fixed-term contract

[!\[\]\(125d701e9425b54c764340b5671b38cd_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[7.36 MB]

Table 7 - Casuals converting to non-casual employment

[!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[69.53 KB]

Data item list

Microdata and TableBuilder

Characteristics of Employment survey microdata for 2014 to 2023 is now available in ABS [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab) as a supplementary file for the [Longitudinal Labour Force \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia) (LLFS) microdata. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia).

The release of the August 2023 Characteristics of Employment microdata into [Tablebuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder) has been delayed until next year due to continuing upgrades to the TableBuilder system infrastructure.

The previously released and unrevised issue of Characteristics of Employment microdata in Tablebuilder for the periods August 2014 to August 2022 will remain available during this time.

DataLab - Characteristics of employment, Data item list, 2014 to 2023

[!\[\]\(758ebdf4629c903da74c2e079717ae32_img.jpg\) Download XLSX](#)

[391.54 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0*.

Prior to 2014, statistics were published in:

- [Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership \(<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6310.0&viewtitle=Employee%20Earnings,%20Benefits%20and%20Trade%20Union%20Membership,>](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6310.0&viewtitle=Employee%20Earnings,%20Benefits%20and%20Trade%20Union%20Membership,)

[%20Australia~August%202013~Latest~04/06/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issue
s&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&\)_\(6310.0\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6310.0&issue=August%202013&num=&view=&)_(6310.0), 1975-2013.

- [Forms of Employment \(\[Working Time Arrangements \\(\\[Locations of Work \\\(\\\[Employment Benefits \\\\(\\\\[Trade Union Members \\\\\(\\\\\[Multiple Jobholding \\\\\\(\\\\\\[*Note: Catalogue number 6333.0 was previously used for \\\\\\\[Working Conditions, Australia \\\\\\\\(Preliminary\\\\\\\\) \\\\\\\\(<https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-May%201979?OpenDocument>\\\\\\\\)\\\\\\\]\\\\\\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/6335.0Feb-May%201979?OpenDocument\\\\\\\), Feb to May 1979.\\\\\\]\\\\\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6216.0&viewtitle=Multiple%20Jobholding,%20Australia~Aug%201997~Latest~20/03/1998&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6216.0&issue=Aug%201997&num=&view=&\\\\\\)_\\\\\\(6216.0\\\\\\), 1965-1997.</div><div data-bbox=\\\\\\)\\\\\]\\\\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6325.0&viewtitle=Trade%20Union%20Members,%20Australia~August%201996~Latest~09/02/1997&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6325.0&issue=August%201996&num=&view=&\\\\\)_\\\\\(6325.0\\\\\), 1976-1996.• <a href=\\\\\)\\\\]\\\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6334.0&viewtitle=Employment%20Benefits,%20Australia~Aug%201992~Latest~15/02/1993&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6334.0&issue=Aug%201992&num=&view=&\\\\)_\\\\(6334.0\\\\), 1979-1994.• <a href=\\\\)\\\]\\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6275.0&viewtitle=Locations%20of%20Work~Nov%202008~Latest~08/05/2009&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6275.0&issue=Nov%202008&num=&view=&\\\)_\\\(6275.0\\\), 1989-2008.• <a href=\\\)\\]\\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6342.0&viewtitle=Working%20Time%20Arrangements,%20Australia~November%202012~Latest~03/05/2013&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6342.0&issue=November%202012&num=&view=&\\)_\\(6342.0\\), 1993-2012.• <a href=\\)\]\(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6359.0&viewtitle=Forms%20of%20Employment,%20Australia~November%202013~Latest~07/05/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6359.0&issue=November%202013&num=&view=&\)_\(6359.0\), 1998-2013.• <a href=\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/second+level+view?ReadForm&prodno=6359.0&viewtitle=Forms%20of%20Employment,%20Australia~November%202013~Latest~07/05/2014&&tabname=Past%20Future%20Issues&prodno=6359.0&issue=November%202013&num=&view=&)_(6359.0)

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2023](#)